



Big Things Come In Small Businesses

Being a local small business owner in the fastest growing city in Missouri gives you an ever-increasing pool of customers. All of these customers means expanding or adding new small businesses to the community. But what if there's no space or funding for these small businesses? The Ozark Chamber of Commerce recognized the importance of these businesses and the jobs and economic support that they provide to local communities. They asked for assistance in financing and facilitating a small business incubator in Ozark, Missouri and other small communities.



The front of the new Ozark Chamber of Commerce and Carl G. Hefner Enterprise Center housing the business incubator

Small business incubators provide space, access to sources of capital, and other services to small local businesses at a reduced rate. This reduced rate leaves these small businesses with more money to invest in their operations to help them thrive and in turn, give back to the local community. The Carl G. Hefner Enterprise Center has space to hold 20 tenants. These tenants are able to share copy machines, office supplies, and meeting areas in the building which also houses the Chamber of Commerce. There are also shared areas that entrepreneurs can use that have access to WiFi, printers, and a great source of knowledge. By helping its small businesses, the nearly 5,000 families in Ozark will continue to have places that provide the essential goods and services that they need.

Missouri Rural Development provided the Ozark Chamber of Commerce a \$70,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant to establish the small business incubator.

Obligation Amount:	\$70,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant
Date of Obligation:	August 2013
Congressional District:	Representative Long, MO 07; Senators McCaskill and Blunt
Partners:	Ozark Chamber of Commerce
Demographics:	Ozark, Missouri and Christian County
Impact:	Providing a reduced cost hub for small businesses to begin, grow, and to keep them in the area.
